

As part owner of a small rural ISP, I fear for my livelihood based on Verizon (and other RBOCs) arrogance. Local monopoly on electronic data services does not enable competition. Rather, it eliminates it. Wholesale of services today is already nearly a no-profit proposition. Verizon, Sprint, et. al are happy to allow wholesale of their services but the 'required' add-ons, e.g., must have an ATM T-1 or better to wholesale DSL and manpower support required render it impossible to achieve a reasonable ROI.

Local customers, especially in rural areas deserve to have as many choices as possible, whether dial-up, DSL, cable or wireless. Allowing the RBOCs to virtually eliminate the small entrepreneurial service provider removes that freedom from the consumer.